

ARTISTS

DRAWER 17a

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Barb Pfeifer



Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Peter Darro

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



PETER DARRO

Boldly unique in the field of wildlife art are the paintings of artist and naturalist Peter Darro. His rare ability to achieve meticulous accuracy in his subjects, without sacrificing any of their vibrant color and exciting vitality, is the result of a lifetime of intimate observation of nature and an incomparable mastery of his art. Born in 1917, he grew up in Chicago, finding his greatest boyhood delights in summers in the forests and fields of his uncle's farm in Michigan. He pursued his art career as a student at the American Academy of Art in Chicago. After graduation, eager for adventure in the wilderness, he set out in his old Hudson sedan to travel throughout the western states to the coast, camping as he went, sketching, painting and studying the American landscape and its' creatures in all their infinite variety.



Upon his return to Chicago, his reputation as an artist rapidly became established. His intense interest in American history influenced many of his works, among which the portrait of Lincoln and paintings of pioneers migrating west have been widely reproduced. As a portrait painter, his ability to transmit the essential character of his subject won him national fame. He painted Senator Everett M. Dirksen in his chambers in Washington, D.C. The portrait, as well as the portrait of Mrs. Dirksen, now hangs in the Dirksen Memorial Library.

Successful as he was in that field, he found his deepest artistic fulfillment in the many paintings done on his holidays in the woods of Wisconsin. He loved the challenge of capturing the intense purity of color in fur or feather, the incredible brilliance of sunlight on leaves and water, or the airy subtlety of a hazy day. His familiarity with the creatures of the wild and his passionate concern for their well-being inspired him to go out into the fields and blinds to sketch and take color notes of wildlife in all weather and seasons, studying their color, form, and habits under every conceivable condition. His work won immediate recognition in the highly specialized field of animal art. He is a member of the national Society of Animal Artists, an eminent group of the finest wildlife artists in the United States and Canada. An active conservationist, he is a member of the Illinois Audubon Society and has contributed a large number of his prints to the society for their use in fundraising. Articles about the artist and reproductions of his paintings have appeared in Illinois Wildlife, the monthly of the Illinois affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. His painting is featured in National Wildlife Magazine, along with anecdotes by the artist, who is an articulate writer as well. He paints with enthusiasm and authority, but more than that, Darro's paintings say something special. Detailed but never picky, subtle but not timid, they are joyous and bursting with life, never confining the creature stiffly to the canvas, but rather freeing the viewer to the wondrous scope of the wilderness.



PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

- The Late Senator Everett M. Dirksen
- The Late Harold Lloyd, Actor
- Daniel M. Galbreath, Sportsman and Owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates
- Bill Plante, CBS TV Newsman
- John Connally, Former Governor of Texas
- Daniel D. Maytag, Maytag Appliances
- William L. Searle, Searle Pharmaceuticals
- Charles R. Walgreen, Jr., Walgreen's Drug Stores
- Don McNeill, Announcer and Originator of the "Breakfast Club" Show
- William N. Lane, III, General Binding Corporation and Lane Enterprises
- John T. Pine, Carson, Pine, Scott Department Stores
- Noel Goldblatt, Goldblatt's Department Stores
- Commander Hap Proctor, U.S. Navy
- Jack D. Putnam, Sculptor
- Donald J. Zolan, Artist
- Leonard Lee Rue, III, Author and Photographer
- Fred Bear, Champion Archer and Author
- Professor Sarkis Atamian, University of Alaska, Author
- Robert A Maher, Attorney and Author
- Philip G. Coleman, M.D., Originator of Umbilical Artery Bypass Technique

CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

- Grumman, Boats Division, Marathon, New York
- Japan-Cine, Division of Bell and Howell, Tokyo
- Kellogg Company, Battle Creek, Michigan
- Glenview State Bank, Illinois
- Land of Lincoln Federal Savings and Loan Associations, Illinois
- Sante Fe Railways, Chicago
- Minnequa Bank of Pueblo, Colorado
- Ralston Purina, St. Louis
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
- Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Illinois
- J.S. Sanders Wildlife and Conservation Foundation, Inc., Ohio
- National Wildlife Federation



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215 S. FORREST ST
DANVILLE, IL, 61832
Oct 14, 2003

ATTN: Cindy VAN HORN;

I have recently acquired a framed print, "16x20", of Mr. Lincoln. It is signed by Darro (Dapro). I would like all the information on the artist that you might have. I would like to know the period he or she painted in specifically so I could ascertain the age of the original watercolor. It definitely is not an oil. I'm 99% sure it's a print. I'm sure it's an old print because it belonged to the Fecker estate here in Danville, IL. They owned the Fecker Brewing Co. that went out of business in 1937. They were located at 39 East North St. where the Lauhoff Grain Co is now located. The print probably date from the late 20's or early 30's, maybe earlier. It looks soft like a chalk drawing so it most likely was a water color. The artist's signature can just barely, in the photo, be seen in the bottom right hand corner as such.

Darro (DARRO)

I found the photo that it was painted from in Stefan Lorants, "Lincoln," a picture story of his life, which I have included copies of, for you. It indicates that the photo goes back to 1864 by Mathew Brady dated Feb 9, in his studio. I have also included a copy of my framed picture that I hope will help. The print of Abe shows his hair parted on the right side which would also lend credence to the 1864 time frame!

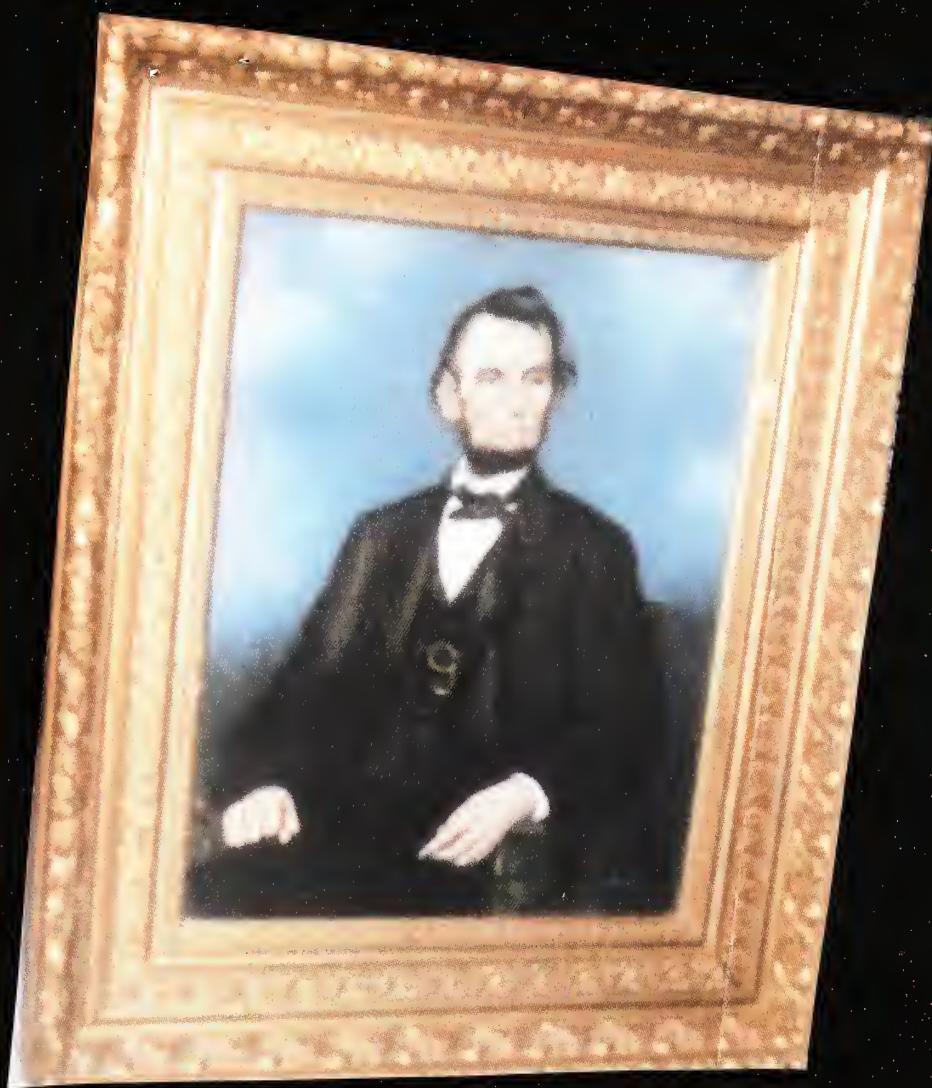
My ~~Phone~~ # is AC 217- 442-9870

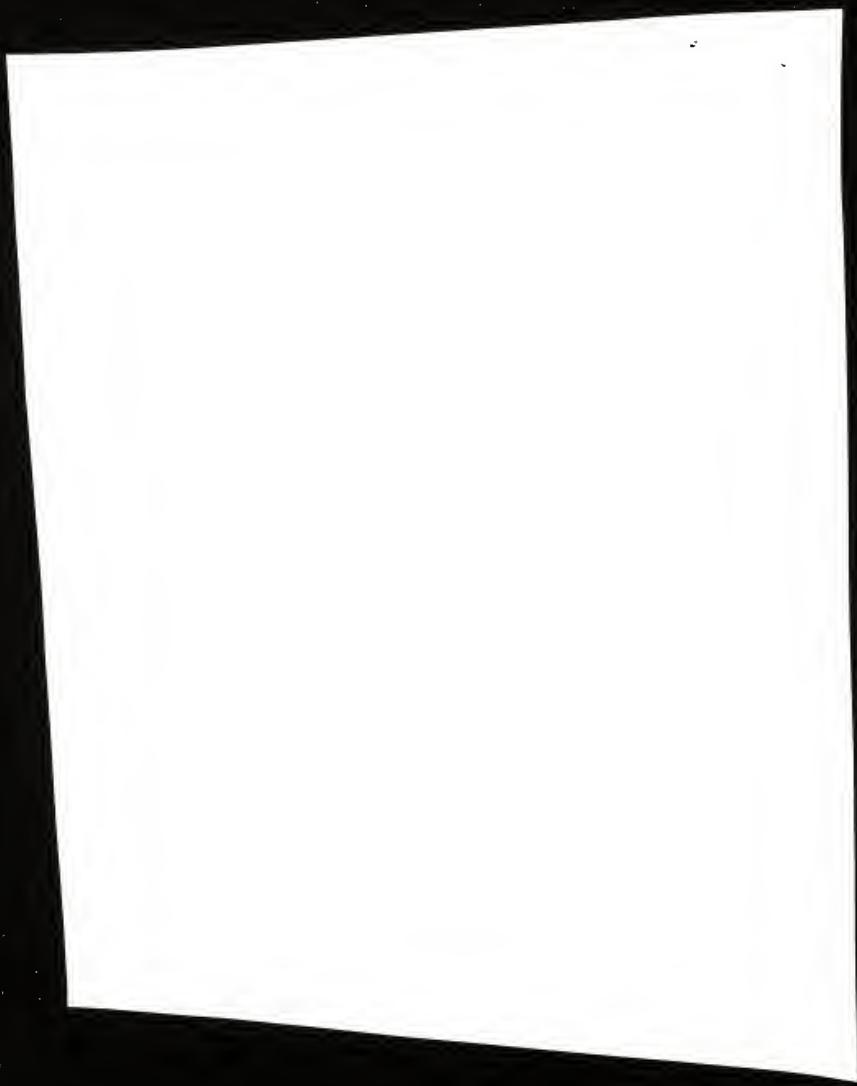
Mailing ADDRESS

Thomas G. Cox
215 S. FORREST
Danville, IL 61832

I would like to thank you in advance for your time + effort on my behalf.

Sincerely yours
Thomas G. Cox





Artist
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Drawer 12a

1911-1912

